

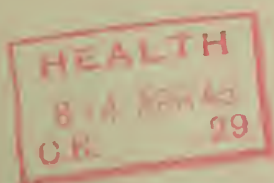
## ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1940.

Public Health Staff.

- (1) Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Thomas Forsyth, M.B.,  
Ch.B. (Glas) D.P.H. (Camb)  
(2) Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (Full time) - John P. Cook,  
Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

To The Chairman and Members of the  
Ashby-de-la-Zouch Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Sanitary State  
of the District for the year 1940.

SECTION A.Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area	28,073 acres.
Resident Population (R.G.'s estimate)	13,270
Number of Inhabitable Houses	3,725
Rateable value	£48,351
Sum represented by a penny rate	£189-9-10.

The chief industries in the Area are:-

(1) Agriculture (2) Coal-mining (3) Brickmaking (4) Stone-ware and  
Pipe-making (5) Stone Quarrying.

No particular industry was noted as having a specially  
injurious effect on health during the year.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	Total	For I.M. etc.		For B. rate.	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
		109	94	108	92
Legitimate		106	92	107	90
Illegitimate		1	2	1	2

Birth Rate = 15.07 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Birth Rate 1940 = 14.6 per 1000 population.

Still Births.	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

Still Birth Rate = 33.81 per 1000 (Live & still) births.  
or Still Birth Rate = 0.52 per 1000 population.  
England & Wales Still Birth Rate = 0.55 per 1000 population.



Deaths.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
140	71	69

Death Rate - 10.5 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Death Rate = 14.3 per 1000 population.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

- (a) Puerperal Sepsis ..... Nil.  
 (b) Other Maternal Causes... Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	12	6	6
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	12	6	6

Infantile Mortality Rate = 60 per 1000 live births

England & Wales Infantile Mortality Rate = 55 per 1000 live births.

Death Rate of Legitimate Infants = 60.9 per 1000 live legitimate births.

Death Rate of Illegitimate Infants = Nil per 1000 live illegitimate births.

Deaths occurring from the following Diseases during 1940:-

Cancer (all ages)	17
Measles (all ages)	0
Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Diarrhoea etc under 2 years	2

Causes of Death during 1940.

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Diphtheria	0	2	2
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases	1	0	1
Influenza	2	0	2
Cancer (Buccal Cavity & Oesophagus M. (Uterus F.	2	0	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	0	2	2
Cancer of Breast	0	3	3
Cancer of all other sites.	5	5	10
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	2	11	19
Heart Disease	17	21	38
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	0	1
Bronchitis	4	3	7
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	0	2
Diarrhoea under two years	0	2	2
Other Digestive Diseases	3	2	5
Nephritis	3	1	4
Premature Birth	3	2	5
Congenital Malformation etc.	0	1	1
Road Traffic Accidents	3	1	4
Other Violent Causes	0	4	4
All other Causes.	13	5	18
	71	69	140

The chief causes of death in 1940 were:-

- (1) Heart Disease 38, (2) Cerebral Haemorrhage 19, (3) Cancer (all forms) 17, (4) Bronchitis 7, (5) Tuberculosis (all forms) 4, (6) Pneumonia (all forms) 4.



## SECTION B.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

#### Laboratory Facilities:-

Chemical and Bacteriological Examinations are provided for in the County Council Laboratory, Leicester.

#### Hospitals:-

1. (a) Fever - Fever Hospitals are provided by the Combined Leicestershire Hospitals Committee and are situated at Markfield, Hinckley, Blaby and Melton. The nearest to your district is Markfield.
- (b) Smallpox - Smallpox Hospitals are maintained by the County Council at Syston and at Snarestone. Snarestone Smallpox Hospital is situated in your District.
2. Tuberculosis - The County Sanatorium at Markfield is adequately equipped for the diagnosis and treatment of cases of Tuberculosis.
3. Maternity - The Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital and Leicester Royal Infirmary are available for cases requiring institutional treatment.  
The Ashby Cottage Hospital provides for medical and surgical treatment of some cases from your district and the Maternity Wing of this Hospital is used by residents from your district.

#### Ambulance Facilities:-

Ambulances are provided for the removal of Infectious Diseases by the Combined Leicester Hospitals Committee.

Accidents in the Collieries are removed by ambulances maintained for the purpose by the Leicestershire Coal Owners Association.

An ambulance provided by the St. John's Ambulance Association stationed at Coalville is available for transport of civilian cases.

The Ambulance facilities for the civil population are inadequate as this one ambulance serves a very large area, with the result that long waits are entailed which are of course dangerous in emergency or severe cases.

#### Treatment Centres and Clinics:-

There are none actually held in your district. An Infant Welfare Centre is held weekly at the Baptist Schoolroom, Ashby.

At the Health Centre, Bridge Road, Coalville an Ante-natal Clinic, a Tuberculosis Clinic and an Orthopaedic Clinic are held regularly. A School and Dental Clinic is also held here.

Venereal Diseases Clinic is held at Leicester Royal Infirmary.

#### Nursing in the Homes:-

General District Nurses are provided in many of the Parishes or Combined Parishes and many of them undertake Midwifery.

Infectious Diseases are not attended by the District Nurses.

There is no provision for nursing such diseases as measles, etc. in the home.





SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water Supply.

The Public Water Supply to Measham, Oakthorpe and Donisthorpe from a deep well at Acresford has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year.

The new Public Water Supply obtained from two boreholes at Heather which was completed in July 1939, supplies the parishes of Heather, Ravenstone, Swannington, Coleorton, Worthington and Oakthorpe is also satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Number of samples taken for analysis.....6.

	Results.			
	Satisfactory.		Unsatisfactory	
	Chemical	Bacteriological.	Chemical	Bacteriological
From Wells.	-	-	4	5
From Pipe Supply	1	1	-	-

Number of wells closed during year.....60 by substituting piped supply.

Number of wells cleansed .....Nil.

Number of cases in which piped supply was substituted for well water..177.

Number of Parishes with piped water supply:-

(a) From Public Mains.....12.

(b) From Private Reservoirs.....2.

Number of Parishes without a piped water supply.....3.

The quality of the water in the wells supplying those Agricultural Parishes is fairly good. Both Public Supplies are very satisfactory. No serious shortage of water occurred during the year.

The following extension of Public Water Supplies were carried out during the year:-

300 lineal yards of 3 inch spun iron pipes and 250 lineal yards of 2 inch spun iron pipes in Jenny Lane and Hospital Hill, Ravenstone.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

Number of cesspools constructed during year .....Nil....

Number of cesspools abolished during the year .....Nil....

Total number in district on 31st December 1940.....898....

There were no extensions of sewerage or sewage disposal works during the year.

Previous proposed schemes are being held over till war ends.

3. Closet Accommodation.

Total number in district on December 31st, 1940.

(1) Privies...1301... (2) Pail Closets...1099... (3) W.C's...1482 ..

Number of closets converted to the water carriage system during year:-

(a) Privies ....32.... (b) Pails....22....

Number of Privies (middens) converted to Pail Closets during year..8.





#### 4. Public Cleansing.

House refuse is removed by the Council's Workmen. The Council have three Karrier Bantam Refuse Removal Vehicles, each with a moveable 350 gallon steel night soil tank. The dry refuse is carried to Tips and wet refuse is carted to agricultural land and ploughed in. The cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cesspools is carried out by manual Labour by the Council's workmen. Considerable strain has been placed on the Sanitary Services by the influx of evacuees, together with the shortage of suitable labour. The necessity of employing very elderly men has increased the difficulties.

#### 5. Salvage.

Salvage is collected by the Local Authority. Fortnightly collections are made, but when visiting outlying villages the salvage trailer is hitched to the lorry and scavenging and salvage is carried out together.

Classes of salvage are Waste Paper, Metals, Bones, Rubber, Rags, Bottles and Jars.

The ashbins which were collected weekly are now collected fortnightly to allow for collection of salvage.

Night soil is still collected weekly.

#### 6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of Complaints received.....29.....

Total number of Defects or Nuisances discovered.....25.....

Number of Inspections:-

	Inspections.	Revisits.
Dwelling Houses (all purposes)	314	485
Tents, Vans. etc.	4	6
Slaughter Houses	43	-
Food Premises	49	-
Dairies and Cow sheds	63	-
Offensive Trades	-	-
Animal Keeping	-	-
Workshops, Etc.	26	4
Shops.	-	-
Other Premises.	81	-
Total	580	495

#### Notices.

Preliminary	Housing.	Other.
Outstanding on 1st January	16	8
Issued during year	30	84
Complied with during year	22	91
Statutory Action necessary	-	-
Outstanding 31st December	14	1

Statutory.	Housing	Other.
Outstanding 1st January	26	0
Issued during year	1	0
Complied with during year	13	0
Outstanding 31st December	14	0

#### Summary Action.

No. of Summonses Issued	No. of Convictions obtained.
2	2

Difficulty has been experienced during the year in obtaining materials necessary for Housing Repairs. Builders are also having difficulty with Labour Shortage.



### Shops.

No action was taken during the year under the Provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

### Camping Sites.

Nil.

### Regulated Buildings.

There are no Common Lodging Houses and no Offensive Trades. Canal boats pass through the district carrying coal. No inspections were made.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No action necessary during the year. No Council Houses were infested nor other dwelling houses.

There was no removal of Tenants into Council Houses during 1940.

### Schools.

(a) Sanitary Conditions:- Where sewers are available and W.C's provided the sanitary conditions are good. Where sewers are not available Pails are used and are emptied by the Council's Workmen.

(b) Water Supply of Schools:- Piped supplies and wells.

(c) No schools were disinfected during the year.

### Swimming Baths and Pools open to the Public.

None in the area.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk Supply.

#### Cowkeepers.

No. on register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions.			
		Outstand- ing from previous year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Out- standing on 31st. Dec.
204	63	-	14	14	-

#### Dairymen or Purveyors of Milk. (other than cowkeepers)

No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Contraventions.			
		Outstanding from prev- ious year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st Dec.
1	3	-	-	-	-

#### Total Contraventions.

	Outstanding from prev- ious year.	Found during year.	Remedied during year.	Outstanding on 31st. Dec.
Cleansing	-	7	7	-
Structural Alterations	-	5	5	-
Utensils	-	2	2	-
Other	-	-	-	-

#### Milk Sampling.

No samples were taken for bacteriological examination during 1940 owing to staff being fully engaged on Essential Services.





The Milk(Special Designations) Order 1936 and 1938.

Licences issued by Local Authority:-

"Tuberculin Tested"		No. of Licences issued in respect of		"Accredited"		"Pasteurised"	
Distribution.		Distribution.		Pasteur-		Retail	
Bottl-Dealers.	Supple-mentary	Bottl-Dealers.	Supple-mentary	ising	plants.	Dealers.	Supple-mentary.
-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

There are 63 accredited producers in the district. During the year two new licences were issued and two were not renewed.

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Regional Slaughter houses in the Area	....	....	....	Nil.
Number of Animals slaughtered in "do"	....	....	....	Nil.
Number of Animals examined in "do"	....	....	....	Nil.
Number of Animals slaughtered elsewhere	....	....	....	1.
Number of Animals examined elsewhere	....	....	....	1.
Number of inspections of meat at time of slaughter	....	....	....	1.
Number of Knacker Yards in area	....	....	....	1.
Number of visits to Knacker's Yard..	....	....	....	5.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

No carcases or part of carcases were condemned.

Meat Stalls:-

None in the area.

Meat Shops, Meat Stalls, etc.:-

Number of inspections .... 49.

Places where food(other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

Number of inspections .... 19.

Two contraventions were found and remedied.

SECTION E.

Housing.

. 1. Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health & Housing Acts.... 61.  
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .... 138.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (Included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 .... 30.  
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .... 64.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 0.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (Exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 30.





## 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... ..16.

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

### (a) Proceeding under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... ..1.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of informal notices
  - (a) By Owners ..... Nil.
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .... Nil.

### (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
  - (a) By Owners..... Nil.
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .... Nil.

### (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..... Nil.

### (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ..... Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... Nil.

## SECTION F.

### Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

#### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1940.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.	
Scarlet Fever	21	12	0	—
Whooping Cough	43	—	0	—
Diphtheria	22	22	2	—
Erysipelas	5	—	0	—
Measles	109	—	0	—
Acute Pneumonia	22	—	4	(all forms)
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	0	—



## Age Distribution of Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Age Period.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Erysi- pelas.	Pneu- monia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
Under 1 year	0	1	0	1	0
1 - 2	0	0	0	0	0
2 - 3	0	1	0	2	0
3 - 4	1	3	0	1	0
4 - 5	1	2	0	2	0
5 - 10	6	7	0	4	0
10 - 15	4	3	0	0	0
15 - 20	3	3	0	2	0
20 - 35	6	2	0	3	1
35 - 45	0	0	1	3	1
45 - 65	0	0	2	2	0
65 and over	0	0	2	2	0

### Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of Blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

### Tuberculosis.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1940.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 - 5	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1
5 - 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 25	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
25 - 35	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 - 45	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
45 - 55	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
55 - 65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and over	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2		3		3		1	
	5				4			

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 or under section 62 Public Health Act, 1925 or section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936

The chief features with regard to Infectious Diseases during 1940 were:-

Scarlet Fever:- 21 cases were notified throughout the year. The disease continues mild in type and no deaths occurred. The cases were distributed in the following parishes:- Ravenstone 7 cases, Worthington 4 cases, Coleorton 3 cases, Appleby Magna 2 cases and single cases in Swannington, Thringstone, Donisthorpe, Sleaford and Heather. The majority of the cases occurred in children of school age, but a surprisingly high percentage of young adults were affected. No use was made of the "Dick" test.

Case Rate = 1.58 per 1000 population.

England & Wales Case Rate 1940 = 1.63 per 1000 population.

Diphtheria:- 22 cases were notified during the year. The parishes affected were:- Ravenstone with 12 cases. Swannington 4 cases, and Coleorton 2 cases, with isolated cases in the following parishes - Appleby Magna, Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe and Worthington. Two deaths in females occurred.

Antitoxin is provided under the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order 1910.

No use was made of the "Shick" Test or artificial means of Immunisation.





The question of Artificial Immunisation is under consideration by the Council. A number of children are being immunised privately.

Case Rate = 1.65 per 1000 population.  
England & Wales 1940 Case Rate = 1.16 per 1000 population.

Erysipelas:- Five cases were notified during the year. No deaths occurred.

Acute Pneumonia:- Twenty-two cases were notified during the year. Four deaths occurred from all types of Pneumonia.

Measles:- 109 cases occurred during the year. No deaths occurred during the year.

Case Rate = 8.2 per 1000 population.  
England & Wales Case Rate 1940 = 10.24 per 1000 population.

Whooping Cough:- 43 cases occurred during the year. No deaths occurred during the year.

Case Rate = 3.1 per 1000 population.  
England & Wales Case Rate 1940 = 1.34 per 1000 population.

Puerperal Pyrexia:- Two cases were notified. No deaths occurred.

I wish to express my thanks to Mr.J.P.Cook, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for his valuable help in compiling this report. Many of the figures are taken from his Annual Summary.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS FORSYTH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

